

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY GOVERNING BOARD (SIGB)

MINUTES

February 7, 2012

MEMBER/DESIGNEES PRESENT: Leo Dutton, SIGB vice chair, L&C Co. Sheriff, MSPOA; Jon Swartz proxy for Mike Bousliman, MDT; Sheena Wilson, Governor's Office; Tom Butler, MHP

GUESTS PRESENT: Warren Dupuis, SWIC; Roger Smith, State Network; Carl Hotvedt, SITSD; Jessica Davies, DES; Bill Fleiner, Broadwater Co; Quinn Ness, PSSB; Kerry O'Connell, Stillwater Co; Sheriff Linder, Jim Smith, MSPOA; Brian Gootkin, Gallatin Co. Sheriff, MSPOA; Mike McKinley, Beaverhead Co, MACO; Scott Marsh, Beaverhead Co; Sandra Barrows, Barrows Consulting; Angie Mullikin, DES Grants; Cliff Peck, Alster Communications. Via conference call: Dorothy Gremaux, Lewistown and Cheri Kilby, Central MT

Call to Order – Leo Dutton: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Acting Chair, Leo Dutton.

Approval of Minutes: Sheena Wilson moved to accept the January 2012 meeting minutes. Jon Swartz seconded. The motion passed.

Grant Status Report – Jessica Davies: Jessica reported on grant updates. The following closeouts have occurred:

- Richland Co. HS 2007 Antelope Butte Infrastructure
- Broadwater Co. HS 2007 Communications Exercise
- Richland Co. HS 2009 Microwave Engineering Study
- Yellowstone PSIC 2007: They are wrapping up paperwork to officially close by March 31, 2012.
- Richland Co. HS 2008 Government Hill/Microwave: Set to close April 30, 2012
- Lewis & Clark Co. IECGP 2009: Set to close February 29, 2012, DES is working with Leo Dutton to identify further fund for the technical position funded by this grant.

Grant Extensions: DHS/FEMA currently has limited grant extensions. HS2009 is currently the only grant within the time frame of requesting an extension. DHS/FEMA is starting to disallow extension requests.

HS 2010 Narrowband Equipment Grant: Applications went out on February 1, 2012, to pre-identified IM entities, with a closing date of February 29, 2012. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a Subject Matter Expert Working Group. DES will submit those recommendations to the Board for final approval on April 10, 2012. The grant performance period is six months and grant closure date is September 30, 2012.

PSSB/SITSD Assistance Transition: DES is working with PSSB in transitioning away from PSSB's grants management assistance. PSSB will continue to assist with existing or on-going projects at a technical level, but not at the grants management level.

Project Status Report to LFC – Warren Dupuis: Warren provided a presentation which included project description/objectives for building a Statewide P-25 VHF shared trunked public safety land mobile radio system. Current project build out status for infrastructure, microwave and trunking, as well as budget, schedules and funding sources were reviewed.

Emerging Issues - Warren Dupuis: Warren met with Aviat to discuss federal issues including:

- IM PO for NE billings.
- IM9 Project in Southeast Montana where weather continues to pose problems. Aviat has added crews in order to meet the March 31 deadline.
- Warren met with Ron Spencer regarding stranded Motorola contract funds at seven sites, four of which are in the IM9 project.
- The COPS grant expires at the end of Feb. 2012; therefore an extension has been filed.
- The DHS grant expires in June, 2012.
- Warren met with Northern Tier on the Lincoln County and ESF contract. Portions run through Burlington Northern territory and for the past funding cycle, monies were paid up front. Funding is not available this time, so Burlington Northern is working on details/decisions. Contract expires in June, 2013.

Trunking Update – Scott Bradford: Scott provided a presentation regarding the current trunking status and estimated current and in-progress coverage. Issues include:

- Trunking utilization. Examples from Butte Silver Bow, Lincoln, Cascade, and Flathead counties and the Northeastern Northern Tier were provided.
- Trunking ownership is a concern as are pending contract issues at the 12 Motorola IM sites.
- Common themes and concerns were explained.

Narrowbanding Overview/Status Update – Scott Bradford:

- FCC requirements state those required to narrowband include all public safety and industrial/business licenses in the 150-174 MHz (VHF) and 421-512 MHz (UHF) bands.
- By Jan. 1, 2013, it's required that licensees must migrate their systems from 25 kHz (wideband) to 12.5 kHz (narrowband) channel bandwidth; or to a technology that achieves equivalent efficiency.
- Narrowband History, Education & Outreach and FCC license update procedures were explained.
- PSSB completed an Assessment of Montana Needs survey for 2010/2011 and results were discussed.
- Funding sources to date includes COPS and Homeland Security Grants, while State of Montana Funding sources include Firefighter Asst. Match Grant, COPS Grant match, Repeaters in the '09 allocation for E. Montana.
- Prospect for Deadline Extension: The FCC has established a waiver mechanism to request delays to the narrowband mandate, however there is no likelihood of an extension for Montana.
- The Technical Working Group voted in January to move narrowbanding to the bottom of the Statewide System priority list.
- A map illustrating the number of licenses converted to narrowband was provided. It also provides percentages as to what has been done so far around the state.

Local Project Status Report – Carl Hotvedt:

- Richland County DHS07: Antelope Butte infrastructure buildout is complete, with grant being closed out.
- Broadwater County Training Exercises: Completed in Flathead and Roosevelt counties and at the Blackfeet. After Action reports have been submitted and Corrective Action Reports issued. Grant is in closeout process.
- DHS08: Last week antennas and radios installed at Culberson, Antelope Butte, Fox Creek, and Richland Co. Law & Justice. Grant expires in April, 2012.
- PSIC07: Work has been completed and grant in closing process. There are now 21 active sites.
- Border Interop Demo Project Grant to Flathead County for Northern border upgrades: The three-year grant was awarded last fall of 2011, and NEPA's are currently being submitted for all sites. Construction should begin this year.

Legislative Work Group Update – Warren Dupuis:

- Warren contacted the twelve 9-1-1 Advisory Council organizations and spoke to nine individuals who will be receiving a letter and the Draft Charter. The first Legislative Work Group meeting is Feb. 23 in Helena.

Technical Work Group – Tom Butler:

- Tom provided a handout and explained the Technical Work Group Charter. The new members include: Tom Butler, Steve Keller, Dale Osborne, Charlie Gilmore, Max Pangburn, Roger Smith, Kerry O'Connell, Jack Spillman, Dave Green, Don Brostrom, Bruce Brown, Dave Hinds, and Chuck Lee. Two members still need to be appointed for Yellowstone Co. and the group is planning discussion regarding membership with the Border Patrol.
- Spending priorities were discussed and the group decided that narrowbanding will no longer be a main priority.
- Dale Osborne, Roger Smith and Dave Clouse met to discuss the spare parts grant. They are finalizing a spare parts list and are working on the grant application.
- The Tech Group wants to include 2012 grant cycle and priority updates on their monthly meeting agendas.
- Tech Work Group meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Locations will differ around the state.
- The group discussed the need for SIGB to provide a more apparent direction as to where the system is headed.

Technical Report – Roger Smith:

- There are current microwave transceiver issues at Highwood Baldy and Roger is working on the problem.
- Roger is working with MHP at the Ft. Harrison site to solve dish problems due to high winds.
- Lewis & Clark Dispatch is being upgraded and should go online Feb.14. Roger is working with Motorola on configuration issues.
- Roger working with Aviat on Mac Pass delay issues.
- Roger working with FBI on missile base connectivity. He is also working on site walks with Dale Osborne to complete configuration for drop and inserts.
- The National Guard will have new requirements due to mission changes at the Butte Armory so circuits will need to be moved. Trunking issues were worked out at Jette, Flying J and Pacific Steel.
- Roger will plan a visit to Pacific Steel, as the Air Force is having radio problems.
- Before necessary equipment can be installed for the Border Grant, Roger visited all border patrol ports of entry to collect required technical data.
- Work continues with Valley Co. and Nemont Electric on connectivity to Opheim.
- Roger continues work with vendors on budget quotes for last mile hops to Centennial and Valley Co.
- Working with MHP on spare parts and deciding what will be needed for the microwave. Dale is working with Aviat to get costs while Roger is working with Charlie Gilmore to verify parts required for zone controllers and trunked sites.
- Roger has delivered older narrowband radios that can be reprogrammed to several jurisdictions.
- Future projects for Roger include verifying connectivity and implementation of the IM9 microwave.

Next Meeting Agenda Items/Adjournment: March 13, 2012 at 10:00 in Room 152 at the State Capitol. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.